

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

What do law libraries provide?

What services are the same and which are different?

How can we collaborate with the courts to make sure needs of the self-represented are met?

What are the advantages to collaboration?

Should there be education for county law library employee's to ensure that we are in compliance with local procedures when we are assisting self-represented litigants with paper work and could this be accomplished by law library employees being involved in court staff training?

If so, should there be a requirement from the AOC that the local courts include law libraries?

What do each of us (county law librarians) consider procedural advice as opposed to legal advice?

As county law libraries how should we be evolving to meet the current needs of our users?

NOTES FROM ROUNDTABLE
5/14/2007
CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE ON SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS
SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA

What do law libraries provide?

- resources
- classes
- clinics
- collaboration w/ self-help and the community
- computers
- typewriters
- photocopies
- understanding ear
- neutral/ safe place
- referrals
- point of need delivery of services
- one time service
- provide information
- assist the courts and the legal system
- gateway for other services
- services/resources to local government
- value added services/expertise
- PR for the court and the bar
- depository functions
- displays/community programs (Law Day)
- breaking barriers to provide access to justice
- legal information and assistance to attorneys
- enabling people to help themselves and feel good about it
- consultants

What services are the same and or different from the Self-Help Center?

Same: Both are experts
Both have computers for forms
Dedicated employees that want to help
Both have copier services
Triage
Referrals
Educational programs

Different or unsure: S/H materials
Natural collaborative culture
Audio/visual equipment
Non restrictive

How can we collaborate with the Courts to make sure the needs of the Self-Represented are met?

Share print and online resources to provide better service on a budget

Cross information and training on point of entry so there is uniformity of response based on local procedures

Collaborative on providing a more user friendly space/longer hours

Collaborate w/ workshops/educational forums

Procedural advice/legal advice

Among ourselves we have a difference of opinion.

Gary K. suggested asking the AOC for an opinion

We should have more leeway than the court clerks. Do not have the limits of time and bias

Are self created forms and instruction binders legal advice?

How can we evolve to meet our changing cliental?

Traditional client bases are changing

Create non-competitive collaboration and partnerships

Know who are potential supporters are

The Court could "Support" us (not in the financial sense)

Redefine who we are and what we do

We need to be more pro-active in our contacts with the court and others